

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS

**BALA**

# SAPTHAGIRI

ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

JULY 2020

**Sapthagiri Supplement**



**Vyasaaya Vishnu Roopaaya  
Vyasaroopaya Vishnave ||**



SHRIRANGA





Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams

# BALA SAPTHAGIRI

'Sapthagiri' Supplement

JULY 2020

Vol.1

No.5

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Front Cover : Sri Vyasamaharshi

Back Cover : Sri Venkateswaraswami

**D**ear Children, we are going to talk about a sacred, glittering chakra of Lord Vishnu. He is always seen holding the Chakra in one hand and a conch in the other. This powerful weapon the Lord carries is called the 'Sudharshanachakra'. Lord Vishnu is the protector of the Universe.

According to the Shiva Purana, this chakra was given to Lord Vishnu by Lord Shiva after a penance which



he performed. Lord Vishnu invoked the blessings of Lord Shiva to grant him a weapon to protect the world and Devas from the Asuras or demons. He performed the austerities with deep intensity and offered 999 lotus flowers and for the 100th one, he offered the lord his eye. Seeing the sincerity of Lord Vishnu to protect the world, Lord Shiva gave him the Sudharshana Chakra. It is said to be the most powerful weapon.

Lord Vishnu also known as the Protector of the Universe holds this Chakra in the right index finger and it can be spun off to vanquish evil and return to the Lord like a boomerang. The chakra is represented with two discs which revolve in opposite directions and the edges are serrated. This gives it the ability to simply cut through the obstacles or enemy.

The chakra is a depiction of Lord Vishnu's destructive energy. This could be seen as symbolic, dear children, for us to garner this energy and slay away the evil thoughts which arise in us so that we are able to raise our energy and vibrate with the pure universal energy and free ourselves from this wheel of life and death.

Let us therefore be courageous as we have a Protector in Lord Vishnu, who empowers us to rise victorious, destroying and conquering evil and setting us free in the wheel of time.





**Twelve  
Alvars**

## **SRI NAMMALWAR**

**- Dr. M.Anandharaj**

**V**aishnavaSampradaya is an important tradition of Hinduism. There are twelve alwar saints who realized the Almighty, Lord Vishnu in their everyday life. The alwar's verses on God are compiled as 'NalayiraDivyaprabandam'. It is a fine example of the contribution of bhakti to literature. Nammalwar is the fifth among them. He was born in Thirukurugoor near Tirunelveli in Tamilnadu. Maran, Sadagopan and Parankusan are few of his other names.

From the time of his birth, Nammalwar behaved different from other kids. He did not play, eat and sleep like other children.



Instead his young mind was always preoccupied with the eternal thoughts and beauty of Lord Vishnu.

Madhurakavi Alwar, one among 12 alvars, decided to stay with him and became the disciple of Nammalwar and enjoyed the blissful presence of the great master. Madhurakavi Alwar listened to the overflowing

songs of Nammalwar on the divinity of Lord Krishna. The songs had the spiritual power to lift the spirit of the common man to praise and cherish the glorious kingdom of God. The essence of all four major Vedas- the Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharvana are present in his verses , which show his deep knowledge on sastras.

His major works of bhakti literature are Thiruviruttam, Thiruvasiriyam, PeriyaThiruvanthathi and Thiruvaimozhi. Thiruviruttam is considered to be an extract of Rig veda, while Thiruvasiriyam is an essence of Yajurveda, PeriyaThiruvanthathi is a reflection of Atharvanaveda, and Thiruvaimozhi as an image for Samaveda. Among them, Thiruvaimozhi is considered as the greatest treasure house of bhakti knowledge and divine vision with attractive style of poetry. It has more than thousand songs in praise of the Lord Ranganatha. All his writings reveal the secret that God is the only shelter for man. His verses are sung in the Lord Vishnu temples in South India during festivals like Garuda Seva and Vaikunta Ekadasi.

The essence of his songs and teachings say that man has to think only of God and surrender completely to him. Nammalwar teaches us that we have to live only with Lord Vishnu in our mind because He is the goal of our life.

So, children hope you all will take his life as an example and follow accordingly.



**Kannada  
Haridasa**

## **SRI RAGHAVENDRA SWAMI**

**Telugu Original by :  
Sri Suswaram Nagarajacharyulu  
English by : Sri P. S. Sastry**

**D**ear children, I would like to share with you briefly about the great Saint, Sri Guru Raghavendra Swamy - where he came from and how he enriches our life, urging us on with his meaningful compositions to reach to Ultimate.

The saint's great-grandfather Krishnabhatta belonged to the region of Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu. He taught the Veena to Vijayanagara King, Krishnadeva Raya, and received precious gifts from him. Venkatanadha (Sri Raghavendra) is the son of his grandson, Sri Veena Timmana Bhattu, an accomplished scholar and musician. His mother is Gopikamba born with the blessing of Lord Venkateswara of Tirumala. Venkatanadha lost his father in childhood and was brought up by his brother and brother-in-law. It was under their guidance that he learned Kavya, Nataka, and Alankara Sastras.

He then became the disciple of Sri Sudhindra Tirtha, who was the disciple of the great Guru, Vijayendra Theertha. Under Sudhindra Tirtha, he mastered the Vedas and Vedangas and the Dvaita literature. He excelled in debates. His knowledge of the Shastra and his rhetoric were praiseworthy. Impressed with his erudition, devotion towards the Guru, faith in God and spiritual discipline, his Guru Sri Sudhindra Tirtha soon appointed him as the pontiff (Peetadhipathi) of Sri Madhwacharya Mahasamsthana.

Venkatanadhacharya was by then married to Saraswathi and they had a son named Lakshminarayana. He therefore hesitated to be initiated into renunciation (Sanyasa). But it is said that, Goddess Saraswathi Herself, appeared in his dream ordering him to accept Sanyasa. Thereby, obeying Her orders and the will of his Guru, Venkatanadhacharya entrusted the



welfare of his wife and child to his brother and was ordained a monk by his Guru, Sudhindra Tirtha, at Tanjavur in the presence of Raghunadha Nayaka, the King of Tanjavur. On this occasion, Venkatanadha was given Lord Rama's name, 'Raghavendra Theerthulu' by his Guru Sri Sudhindra Tirtha.

As Sri Raghavendra Swamy bestowed his blessings on several people in several ways, while his literary output acquired utmost significance amidst his devotees. His *Parimalagrandha* was the most popular among them and therefore he was also known as 'Parimalacharya'. His *Khandartha* is still being taught as a text in many institutions. The *Pratah Sankalpa Gadya* has become one of the most important texts read regularly. His composition of the Kannada song, *Indu Enage Govinda*, in the raga *Bhairavi* is known to every popular musician. With its devotional and didactic message, every word of this lyric touches our hearts. It occupies a unique place in the *Haridasa* literature.

Sri Raghavendra Swami performed innumerable miracles. Once, when a child lost his life falling into mango juice, he restored him to life sprinkling water from his kamandalam. When the Nawab of Adoni offered him meat, he changed it into fruits. He reproduced



intact a necklace of jewels which he consigned to the flames of Yagnagunda. Sri Raghavendra Swami received many titles from the kings and settled in Mantralaya. His Brindavana is in Mantralaya, protecting us all.

It is a blessing for each one of us to visit his Brindavana and soak in the energy of this great seer and be uplifted to lead your life meaningfully.





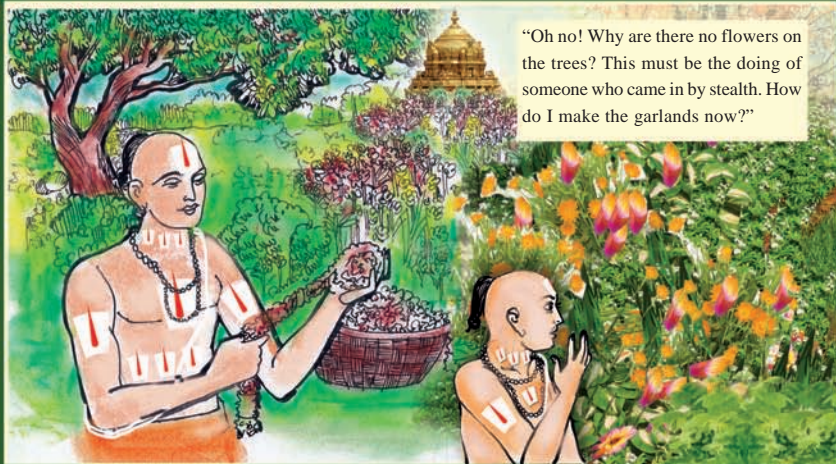
## PICTURE STORY...

**You are my  
FATHER-IN-LAW**



Original Story in Telugu by :  
**Sri D. Srinivasa Deekshitulu**  
Pictures :  
**Sri P. Sivaprasad**  
Translated by :  
**Smt. C. Sravanthi**

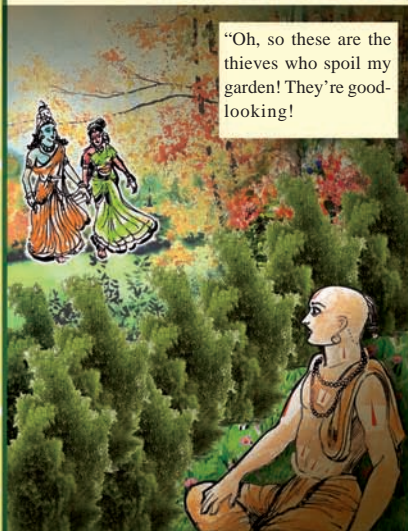
On Sri Venkatachalam, Anantalwar was cultivating a garden for the flower seva of the lord with great care. With the flowers that bloomed there, he would make beautiful garlands and offer them to the Swami everyday. One day....



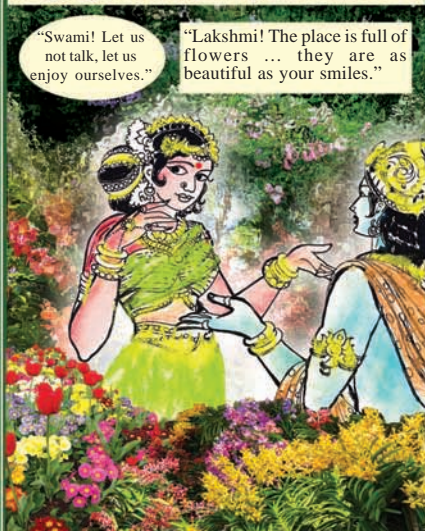
"Oh no! Why are there no flowers on the trees? This must be the doing of someone who came in by stealth. How do I make the garlands now?"

The next night, alwar waited in a corner of the garden, looking out for the thieves. A newly married couple entered, happily.

The man and the woman were moving about the garden with delight, plucking flowers and smelling their fragrance.



"Oh, so these are the thieves who spoil my garden! They're good-looking!"



"Swami! Let us not talk, let us enjoy ourselves."

"Lakshmi! The place is full of flowers ... they are as beautiful as your smiles."



The alwar was furious.

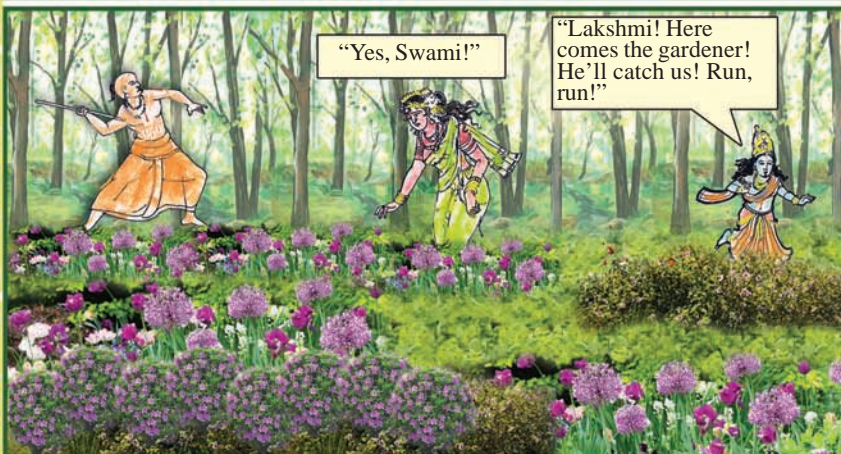
"I should teach these mischief-makers a fitting lesson!"

"Hey! Who are you? Why are you plundering the garden?"



"Yes, Swami!"

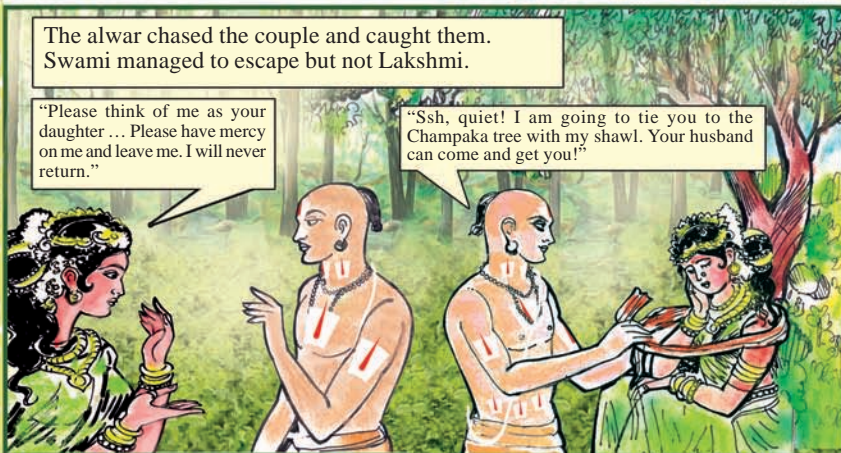
"Lakshmi! Here comes the gardener! He'll catch us! Run, run!"



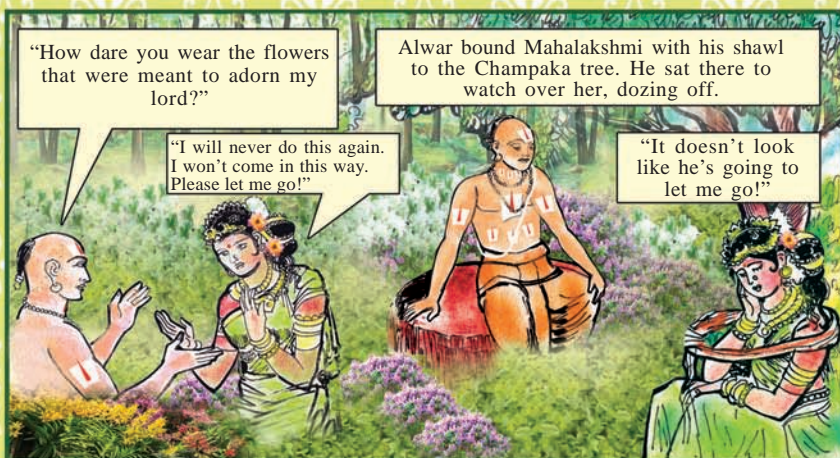
The alwar chased the couple and caught them. Swami managed to escape but not Lakshmi.

"Please think of me as your daughter ... Please have mercy on me and leave me. I will never return."

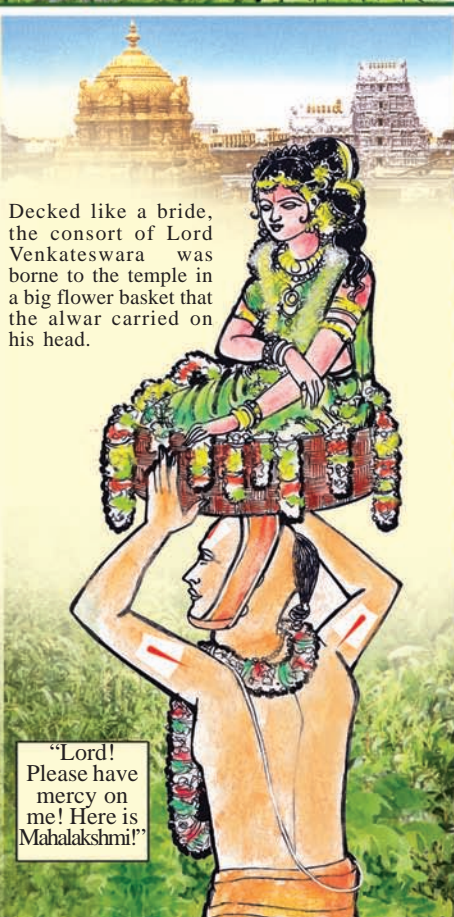
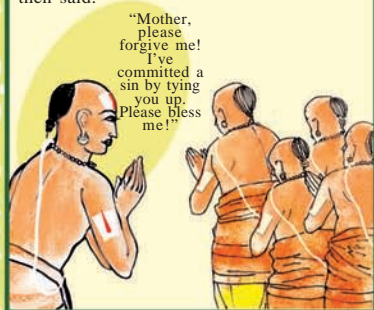
"Ssh, quiet! I am going to tie you to the Champaka tree with my shawl. Your husband can come and get you!"







When the priests went to the temple in the morning to wake up the Lord, they did not find Mahalakshmi on Lord's chest. They got agitated. The Lord told them that Mahalakshmi was being held at Anantalwar's garden and ordered them to go and fetch her in a ceremonial manner. The priests went and told Anantalwar who his captive was. Anantalwar then said:





Mahalakshmi disappeared from the alwar's basket and appeared on the chest of Lord Venkateswara.

"Ananta! You have offered Mahalakshmi to me as a bride, so from now on, you are my father-in-law".

"Saranam  
saranam  
Janani!"

"Sri Venkateswara!  
You have showered  
such a kindness on me,  
O Merciful One!"

Let us have another divine story of Lord Venkateswara  
in the next issue....

**Moral  
Story**

## THE DEDICATION OF EKALAVYA

- Smt. N. Kalpana

In ancient India, nearly 5000 years ago, there lived a young Nishada (a tribe of hunters) by the name of Ekalavya. He was the son of chief of Bheel tribe, lived deep in the forest of Hastinapur. His aim in life was to become the finest archer the world had ever seen. Dronacharya, was famous in teaching archery and who was also the royal teacher of the Pandavas and the Kouravas. Ekalavya was rejected and hurt by Dronacharya to teach archery, due to the low status of his birth. The refusal of Dronacharya to teach archery had made Ekalavya determined to learn archery. Despite this, Ekalavya thought of him as his Guru. He took his bow and arrow, worshipped the statue of Dronacharya and started practicing archery before it, until he became incredibly skilled. However,



when Dronacharya encouraged him and learned of his accomplishments, he was afraid that a tribal boy would surpass his best student, Arjuna. Dronacharya demanded that Ekalavya to sacrifice his right thumb as payment for learning under his name as Guru Dakshina. Without questioning Dronacharya, Ekalavya with due humility, cheerfully and without protest immediately cut off his right thumb and placed at the feet of Dronacharya. Dronacharya blessed Ekalavya with immortality by asking him for his thumb. Ekalavya symbolizes every teacher's dream as a hardworking, motivated student who learns without any teaching and was, therefore, unable to become the best archer in the world. Dronacharya was humbled. He blessed the young archer for his courage and said he would be known as a great archer and will be remembered forever for his loyalty to his guru. But despite his handicap, Ekalavya continued to practice archery. How could he do so? When one is dedicated, one can make even mountains bow. With practice, Ekalavya could shoot arrows with his index and middle finger and he became a great archer than he was ever before. His renown spread far and wide. When Dronacharya came to know this, he blessed the boy silently and begged for divine forgiveness.

**Moral :** Children should learn about hard work, respect and dedication, especially for teachers and instructors. Eklavya is still praised as the most loyal and brave student in the epic of Mahabharatha. Any knowledge Teacher gives to Student has value in life of a Student as he goes on with life.





## A DISTINGUISHED CHILD

Name : Anagha. A  
Class : 9<sup>th</sup> Standard  
DOB : 11th May 2007  
School : Mahilalayam School, Aluva, Kerala  
Mother : Sudha. V  
Father : Arun Kumar. V  
Skills : Classical Music, Violin and Classical Dance  
(Bharathanatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi)

To become expert in Indian Classical Dance and Music and to promote Indian Art and Culture -

**Classical Music** - Anagha Started learning Classical music at the age of 3 and have been giving stage performances as a group under the guidance of her Guru Smt. Shyama Haridas, Aluva. She has been consistently receiving First Prize for Light Music, Classical Music and Melody Songs at School Level. She has represented her School at CBSE at District Level Youth Festivals.

**Classical Instrument** - She is also learning Violin under Smt. Geeta Parameswaran.

**Classical Dance** - She is learning Classical Dance Bharathanatyam, Mohiniyattam and Kuchipudi under Guru Smt. Sudha Peethambaram of Sri Sankara School of Dance, Kalady. She has been learning Dance for the past 5 years and has cleared the 4 levels of Certification Examinations conducted by school. Her Arangetram was in the year 2017 at International Dance Festival, Kalady. Since then, she has been performing with her School in Various Stages at ChottanikaraBhagavathy Temple in 2018, KollurMookambika Temple during Navarathri Festival, Guruvayoor Krishna Temple in year 2018, Kalady Sri Krishna Temple and Pallipattukav Devi Temple, Aluva during the yearly festivals.



# Quiz

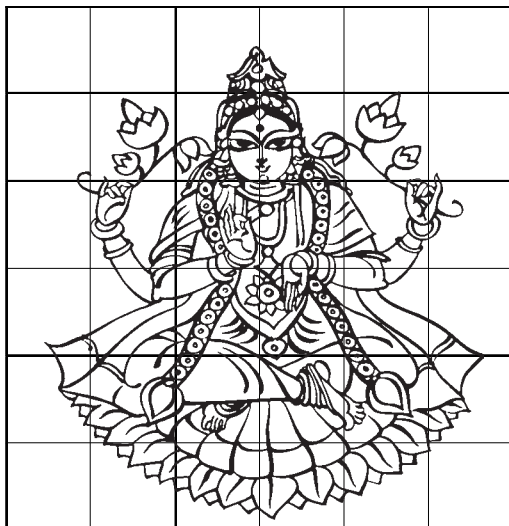
- Kum. V. Anagha

- 1) Which is the birth star of Lord Venkateswara?
  - a) Rohini
  - b) Swathi
  - c) Sravana
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ is recited as a wake up recitation in Tirumala temple ?
  - a) Suprabhatham
  - b) Sri Venkateswara Ashthotharam
  - c) Govinda Namaas
- 3) “Sapthagiri” means .....
  - a) Six hills
  - b) Seven hills
  - c) Eight hills
- 4) Who composed many kirtanas in praise of Lord Venkateswara?
  - a) Sri Thyagaraja
  - b) Sri Purandaradasa
  - c) Sri Annamacharya
- 5) Foster Mother of Lord Venkateswara .....
  - a) Vakulamaatha
  - b) Yashoda
  - c) Kausalya
- 6) Who did PushpaKainkaryam to Lord Venkateswara?
  - a) Yamunacharya
  - b) Ananthathwar
  - c) Koorathathwar
- 7) Tirumala is known as .....
  - a) AdiVarahaKshetra
  - b) Pancha Ranga Kshetra
  - c) Pancha Krishna Kshetra

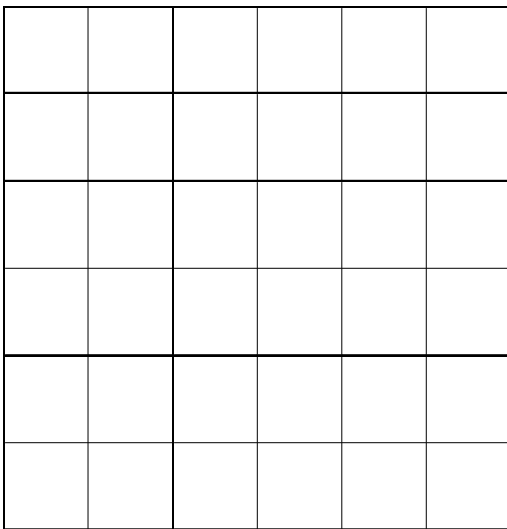
Answers: 1) c 2) a 3) b 4) c 5) a 6) b 7) a

## DRAWING

Colour the Picture



Draw the Picture as given in the above





Children in the Srivari Metlotsavam





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**Nithyaaya niravadyaaya sathyaananda chidhaathmane |  
Sarvaantharaathmane Srimadvenkatesaaya Mangalam ||**